

Health and Nutrition

This involves creation of school gardens to ensure constant food supply to children in the different schools. It also deals with sensitisation seminars for pupils to learn about HIV/AIDS, early pregnancies, and how to prevent hygiene related sickness in homes.



Achievements

Since 2007, **CBIRD** has worked hard to ensure improved academic performance in rurally remote schools. Parents' and teachers participation in school activities has been renewed while enrolment has significantly increased. Schools have markedly increased their academic performance, and registered a number of good grades that enabled children to join better secondary schools. Narozari primary school, for example, has excelled in music, dance and drama competition at parish and diocese levels. This has helped children to develop their natural talents whereas the school has won trophies and certificates of recognition including National certificates. **CBIRD** has developed Community Libraries, sourced school fees for a growing number of the poorest households, and developed food security projects in some schools, amongst many other initiatives. **CBIRD** strives to continually improve and diversify its projects to help those most in need and achieve our objectives.

Partners

We have many kind contributors to our work; **The Allen foundation** and **Wheels4life** continue to strongly support our work, and **Read International**, **Biblonef**, **The Stephen Lewis Foundation**, **Tools with a Mission**, **Book Aid International**, **Crossroads** as well as many individuals from Uganda, America and the UK who have contributed to our goal – **thank you for all your hard work!** We welcome those who wish to help us achieve **Empowerment through Education**



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION



WWW.CBIRD.NET



Baluti Road, P.O.BOX 887, Masaka



+256 782262844



jude@cbird.net



facebook/cbird



@CBIFRD

EDUCATION OPENS DOORS



CBIRD

Community Based Initiative
for Rural Development

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Community Based Initiative for Rural Development (CBIRD) is a non-political and non-profit local organisation, founded in 2007 and based in Western Uganda, Masaka District.

CBIRD is devoted to activities which improve the performance of rural primary schools to ensure sustainable development of rural communities. CBIRD engages in reconstruction of rural primary schools, promotion of equal education opportunities for all, provision of school materials and setting up of village libraries, supporting games, sports, music, dance and drama in primary schools, capacity building, research and advocacy – all working towards our goal of **Empowerment through Education.**

OUR VISION

Participatory rural community empowerment for improved sustainable development of rural isolated communities.

OUR MISSION

To improve academic performance in rural primary schools, contribute to poverty reduction, stimulate growth through participatory approaches and innovations, and community-oriented action programs and interventions for better livelihoods.

The Problem

Over half the population in Uganda is now under 15 years old, putting a huge strain on the already meagre educational resources of the Government

Children are often required to help out with the subsistence of their families, have to travel a long way to the nearest school, and their families often cannot afford the associated costs of education (books, uniforms, stationary, travel, etc), which is taken for granted in the West.

The vast majority of the population are rural, over 90% and rely on agriculture as their primary livelihood activity.

Over half the population, some 400,000 people, are thought to live below the poverty line.

The rural isolation and pervasive poverty in Masaka means it in need of interventions for sustainable development to break the poverty trap many of its inhabitants, particularly children, find themselves in.

CBIRD strives to assist in this process through the development of education for the benefit of poor and isolated rural communities who enjoy little outside help.

Themetic Areas Education

One of **CBIRD's** most successful projects is sourcing school fees for the most in need families and children. A small contribution can allow a child to attend school for a year or longer, giving them the opportunity to have an education which would otherwise not have been available to them. **CBIRD** provides school materials such books, pens, pencils etc as well as equipment for music, dance and drama. **CBIRD** also develops community libraries to build the reading and writing skills of all in the community.

Educational performance has improved markedly in the schools which **CBIRD** works with, building a sustainable future for the children and their communities.



Infrastructural Development and Rehabilitation

CBIRD builds and renovates old schools' structures whenever there is critical need. Boarding houses, libraries, wells, kitchens and pit latrines have all been built or renovated and have left a lasting legacy on the health of children and the educational potential of schools in Masaka.

Capacity building and Poverty reduction program

This theme empowers teachers, parents and children to be able to work as a team for better performance. It also involves trainings in small income generating activities, like making craft items which are sold in the US, and providing bicycles to community groups who can then travel to market more easily, and conduct petty trade. This allows parents to raise more income for their families, and for school fees specifically.

